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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Trinidad and Tobago: draft resolution

Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995 and 52/81 of 12 December 1997 concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

Recognizing that the basic objective of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family should be to strengthen and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, in particular at the national and local levels,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and to society at large,

Noting with concern that, notwithstanding the achievements of the International Year of the Family since 1994, numerous problem areas exist that require concerted attention, such as the need to develop common ground and common understanding and to improve research, data collection and capacity-building and the training of personnel, in order to formulate, implement and evaluate family-related policies and programmes,

Also noting with concern that the contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities have steadily decreased, reducing its resource base, and that, unless this

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trend is reversed and the Fund strengthened, many priority concerns relating to family issues will not be met,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family,[1]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family,[1] and endorses the recommendations outlined in it;

2. *Invites* Governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, *inter alia*, by promoting the rights of individual family members, and, in particular, gender equality and the rights of the child;

3. *Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels concerning families and, in particular, to promote the role of families in development, and invites Governments to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues;

4. *Recommends* that all relevant actors, including Governments, research and academic institutions, and civil society, contribute to developing strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening the economic and sustainable livelihood of families;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to play an active role in facilitating regional and international cooperation within the framework of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among Governments on effective policies and strategies;

6. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to undertake a comprehensive review of the global situation of families in 2004;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a fourth biennial progress report and to include therein draft guidelines to explore the appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council.

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[1] A/54/256.